

**WORKSHEET 3  
PRESCRIBED GRAZING (CODE 528)**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Farm No./Tract No.:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Field Number(s):</b>
<b>Cost-Share Program:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>

**RECOMMENDED STEPS TO BETTER GRAZING**

Check applicable:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1. SOIL TEST TO DETERMINE pH AND NUTRIENT NEEDS</b> – if possible a year to 6 months before, BUT ALWAYS DO THIS (a field by field soil analysis by a recommended lab).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2. LIME AS NEEDED</b> based on the results from the soil test and do it at least 6 months to a year before planting if possible. <b>Most cost effective practice on pastures!</b> Cool season grasses need a pH between 6.0 - 7.0 to fully utilize nutrients present. Clovers survive in lower pH conditions, but do best in 5.8 - 6.5 ranges. Alfalfa needs a pH of 6.5 - 7.0 to utilize all nutrients present. Warm season grasses will tolerate a lower pH, but produce significantly more forage if the pH is above 6.0. A pH much above 7.0 is unnecessary for forages other than alfalfa.  Grasses and legumes will not persist and will be much less productive if the pH is too low. Cool Season Grasses need a pH between 6.0 - 7.0 to fully utilize nutrients present.
	<b>3. DETERMINE SOIL NUTRIENT NEEDS</b> – All application rates need to be in accordance with the State of Maryland Nutrient Management Regulations for that field. Always get current requirements before proceeding. Based on what is allowed use these guidelines:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COOL SEASON GRASS PASTURES WITH 25% OR MORE LEGUMES</b> Apply 30 – 50 lbs. of N in early spring just as grasses begin to green up. Apply P and K, if possible in the fall, based on a recent soil test. In late July in Southern Maryland or early August, in Northern Maryland after grazing or mowing apply about 50 lbs. of N for fall grazing. If stockpiling tall fescue, apply 50 lbs. of N in mid-summer after grazing or mowing prior to rain to begin aggressive fall growth needed for quality stockpiling. Increase nitrogen proportional to absence of legumes. Per Maryland Nutrient Management guidelines, do not exceed 150 lbs. of N per year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COOL SEASON GRASS PASTURES WITH LESS THAN 25% LEGUMES</b> Apply up to 50 lbs. of N in early spring just as grasses begin to green up. Apply P and K in the fall, based on a recent soil test. In late July, in Southern Maryland or early August, in northern Maryland, after grazing or mowing apply about 50 lbs of N for fall grazing. If stockpiling tall fescue, apply 50 lbs of N in mid-summer after grazing or mowing prior to rain to begin aggressive fall growth needed for quality stockpiling. Increase nitrogen proportional to absence of legumes. Per Maryland Nutrient Management guidelines, do not exceed 150 lbs. of N per year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>WARM SEASON GRASS PASTURES</b> - Apply 75 lbs. of N when warm season grasses begin to green up. Apply P and K based on a recent soil test. With Eastern gamagrass apply between 80 and 100 lbs. of N after each grazing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4. DETERMINE SOIL WATER HOLDING ABILITIES FROM THE SOIL SURVEY and determine suitable forages from the NRCS Maryland 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting Conservation Practice Standard and match plant varieties to management and soil needs as system is developed.</b> Plant, fertilize and manage based on the type of grass, legume and planned grazing system. ALWAYS STOP GRAZING AT THE RECOMMENDED HEIGHTS ON THE PASTURE STICK. (THAT IS YOUR SEED CORN FOR THE NEXT GRAZING PERIOD.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>5. DETERMINE LEGUME COMPONENT MANGEMENT.</b> Other than for landowner concerns on bloat, increase legume component from 25% to 40%. Accomplish this by overseeding frost seeding (spreading on freezing and thawing ground) in mid-February in Southern Maryland and early March in northern Maryland. Surface broadcast 5 – 8 lbs of red clover or 1 – 2 lbs. of white (ladino) clover or a mix every two years that has been intentionally heavily grazed in late Fall to open the surface up and create better seed soil contact. Frost seed up to half of the acres each year to maintain the clovers, since most individual clover plants persist a maximum of 3 years.</p>
	<p><b>6. FOR SUMMER SLUMP NEEDS USE ORCHARDGRASS STOCKPILING OR WARM SEASON GRASSES.</b></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Stockpile orchardgrass by stopping grazing in late April. Fertilize if needed. Let grow till needed in the summer and strip grazed accordingly.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Warm season grasses can produce high quality drought tolerant forage in the summer months and about 25% of the acres in the system are needed to supply mid-summer grazing needs alone. Additional information is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>7. FESCUE STOCKPILING FOR WINTER</b> – Late July in Southern Maryland, graze/mow tall fescue and apply 50 lbs. of N (2 weeks earlier in the north). Begin grazing after a hard frost converts starches to sugars. Strip graze by limiting access to only as much as will be eaten in a day.</p> <p>To estimate dry matter yield lb/ac for stockpiling, use the following equation:</p> <p>Dry matter yield lb/ac = (17.6) x (days) + ((0.0825) x (days) x (lbs Nitrate present)) = 767</p>
<p><b>OTHER COMMENTS:</b></p>	